

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

SHIPMENT

You are authorized two types of shipment to Japan: unaccompanied (express) shipment and household goods. Japan is an administratively weight restricted area which means that your personal property or household goods shipment is limited to 25% of your Joint Travel Regulation Allowance. Check with your Traffic Management Office to determine the weight authorized for you.

Tables, chairs, sofas, rugs, lamps, bedroom sets, stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers are provided from housing supply and it is recommended that you do not ship such items. Cable television on post includes Japanese channels in addition to Armed Forces Radio and Television Service stations, which carry stateside news, sports, movies and popular programs. The 110 volt, 50 cycle Japanese current is compatible with most American appliances so you will not need a transformer to use your own appliances. Your American vacuum cleaner will work adequately on Japanese current. Electric irons, toasters, microwave ovens and other appliances which have heating elements will need extra time to warm up, but can be used with that precaution. Leave electric clocks at home since they will not keep accurate time on the 50 cycle current. Although freezers are valuable on European installations, they are not authorized for shipment to Japan since space is limited in quarters both on and off post.

VEHICLES

Shipment at government expense of privately owned vehicles is authorized for personnel assigned to Japan. However, the Government of Japan has established stringent emission control standards for automobiles and trucks manufactured in recent years. An embargo is in existence for shipment of privately owned vehicles manufactured after 31 March 1976. For this reason, prior approval for shipment of POV must be obtained from the Garrison Commander. In applying for approval, you must supply the make and model of the POV and the date (year and month) it was manufactured.

Persons who obtain approval to ship an American car can expect to spend approximately \$3000-\$5000 to properly register the vehicle and obtain compulsory Japanese and US Insurance. In addition, there will likely be other costs to modify the car to meet Japanese inspection requirements. Proof of the date of manufacture (month and year) is required by the Japanese government in order to register an American vehicle. Procuring replacement parts for US manufactured vehicles can be time-consuming and expensive.

Large American cars are discouraged for use in Japan due to narrow roads. Although roads are improving, there are still many roads and most streets in urban areas which are narrow and almost impossible to negotiate with a large car. There are usually a great many used, older model Japanese cars available at very reasonable prices (\$700 -\$1000). They are suited to road conditions and repair parts are readily available. Registration, licensing fees and insurance rates are cheaper for Japanese made cars than for the larger American cars.

The embargo on vehicles does not prohibit shipment of motorcycles manufactured after 31 March 1976. In order to ship a motorcycle, you must obtain written authorization prior to shipment. Some minor emission control modifications may be required after entry into Japan depending upon the make and model of the motorcycle.

FIREARMS

IAW USARJ Regulation 190-6, incoming personnel may import rifles and shotguns into Japan provided they strictly comply with the requirements of this regulation and the Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide (PPGIG), Volume II, Japan General Instructions. Shippers or consignors must use the U.S. Postal System to import authorized weapons and consign them to gaining commanders. Weapons will not be shipped in personal property. Only those firearms listed in appendix B, this regulation, may be imported into Japan.

Service members should mail weapons IAW the restrictions imposed by the references in appendix A of regulation 190-6 and the Army Post Office (APO). The local Area Transportation Office will provide the proper Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) documents to meet declaration requirements for the weapons.

The mailing of any type of concealed firearms (handguns), ammo, and/or any type of explosives through APOs is strictly prohibited. All firearms must be declared to U.S. Postal representatives. Personnel should send their weapons as registered mail through the Military Postal Service (MPS). Authorized firearms and other types of weapons may be mailed to an authorized destination (the list of authorized destinations is maintained by the APO) IAW U.S. Postal regulation. De-register weapons at the applicable PMO prior to mailing. Present the weapon, in its open shipping container, to postal authorities for inspection immediately prior to mailing, along with the canceled duplicate copy of AJ Form 873EJ and other documents; e.g., import license required by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The ATF Form-6A is a pre-approved permit for use by members of the armed forces to be used for importation of weapons into the United States. All civilian SOFA personnel will use ATF Form 6 to request approval from the ATF prior to mailing any weapon. **When the weapon has been mailed, the postal authorities will return the AJ Form 873EJ to the applicable ASG PMO with a notation that includes the date that the weapon was declared and mailed.**

United States forces personnel may lawfully import and register in Japan the following types of privately owned firearms: Hunting and Sporting Rifles, Including .22-Caliber Rifles. Guns customarily used for hunting, sporting, and historical military reenactments, including military-type rifles that have been converted permanently. Hunting and sporting rifles must meet the following specifications:

- a. The firearm must not be capable of automatic success firing, such as a machinegun.
- b. The caliber of the bore will not exceed 0.41 inches (10.5 mm).
- c. The total length of the gun must exceed 37 inches (93.9 centimeters (cm)).

- d. The length of the barrel must exceed 19.25 inches (48.8 cm).
- e. The firearm will not be equipped with a silencing device or equipment to produce a silencing effect.
- f. The firearm will not have serious defects in the firing mechanism or barrel such that it would be hazardous.

B-2. Shotguns.

- a. The caliber of the bore will not exceed 12 gauges.
- b. The specifications in paragraphs B-1 through B-6, this appendix, are also applicable to shotguns, except that the barrel length must exceed 18 inches.

B-3. Air Guns, Including Gas-Operated Guns.

- a. The caliber of the bore will not exceed 8 mm.
- b. The total length of the gun must not exceed 79.8 cm.
- c. The specifications in paragraphs B-1a, e, and f, this appendix, are also applicable to air guns.

B-4. Firearms Designed Primarily for Target, Skeet, or Trap Shooting. These types of firearms must meet the specifications in paragraphs B-1 through B-3, this appendix.

B-5. Handgun Importation, Possession, and Ownership in Japan. **Handgun importation, possession, and ownership are strictly forbidden.**